

November 24, 2014

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Becerra,

I write on behalf of AJC, the global Jewish advocacy organization, to urge your support of legislation to deny federal benefits to individuals who participated in Nazi persecution. There are two House measures that seek to accomplish this: the Nazi Social Security Benefits Termination Act of 2014, introduced by Representatives Carolyn Maloney, Leonard Lance, and Jason Chaffetz, and the No Social Security for Nazis Act, introduced by Representatives Sam Johnson and Xavier Becerra.


For many years, Nazi extermination camp personnel and others who found refuge in the United States after World War II – individuals who perpetrated some of the worst crimes known to humanity, including the execution of millions of innocent civilians – have received various benefits, including Social Security payments, from the United States government. While the number of Nazi recipients of Social Security payments may not be large, the continuance of this practice is an intolerable insult to those, living and dead, who suffered at the hands of the Nazis, is an affront to American taxpayers, and contradicts our nation's core values.

The Nazi Social Security Benefits Termination Act will deny receipt of federal benefits to those who were accused of taking part in Nazi criminal acts and were either stripped of their citizenship or voluntarily renounced it. The No Social Security for Nazis Act amends the Social Security Act to cease payments to those stripped of U.S. citizenship as a result of participation in Nazi activities, and those who voluntarily renounced citizenship due to such participation.

The United States should not be lending material support to individuals whose crimes were so egregious that a new word had to be coined to describe them: genocide. On behalf of AJC, I urge you to support legislation to deny federal benefits to individuals who participated in Nazi persecution.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Isaacson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jason Isaacson